

FALL 2012

Alumni Columns

Northwestern State University Magazine



Student Services Center



III Messages



Dr. Randall J. Webb,
1965, 1966
President
Northwestern State
University

Dear Alumni:

The 2012-13 academic year is off to a good start at Northwestern State University.

Due to hard work by our Office of University Recruiting, faculty, staff, alumni and students, Northwestern State had an outstanding freshman class this year. We have the largest freshman class since the university implemented selective admissions. The incoming class is better prepared academically. The class average score on the ACT is above the state and national average. More high school valedictorians chose Northwestern State this year. This shows top students hold our academic programs in high regard.

As our students returned to campus, they were able to use our new Student Services Center. This facility allowed the university to combine a number of administrative offices in one building, making it easier for students to conduct business. Work is also progressing on Caspari Hall, which will reopen this spring. Several other projects are in progress to add to the beauty of the campus, improve safety and reduce energy costs.

Northwestern State seeks to serve students wherever they are through traditional classes and electronic delivery. This semester, we expanded our course offerings in Marksville through our partnership with the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana. This will allow us to serve students in the Marksville area who cannot travel long distances to take classes.

We recently received approval to offer our bachelor's program in computer information systems online. Northwestern State is also joining with the other University of Louisiana System institutions to offer a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership. The university will offer a concentration in public safety administration.

We hope you will plan to join us for Homecoming in October. It will be a wonderful opportunity to see many of the improvements on campus and reconnect with cherished friends.

Thank you for all you do to support Northwestern State University.



Brad Laird, 1997
Acting Director
University
Advancement

My Fellow Alumni,

The last few months have been an exciting time as I transitioned from the realm of athletics to my new position as acting director of University Advancement at Northwestern State. Read more about this on page nine.

As many of you know, I have a long personal history with Northwestern State as a student athlete and coach, during which time it was impressed upon me to always be an ambassador for the university. As a coach, I strived to foster a sense of dedication, personal responsibility and commitment from each member of my team. I intend to take the same approach in my new position and believe my experience will enhance the work we do in Alumni and Development.

Northwestern State has always been a big part of my life, as well as that of my wife Renee and our children, Brianna and Brock. It is an honor for me to continue to serve the university in a role that will allow me to build upon contacts that I have already established as well as become acquainted with more prospective students, university supporters and community partners.

I wish my predecessor, Drake Owens, best of luck and would like to express my gratitude to him and the rest of the staff in Alumni and Development for helping make the transition to my new team a smooth one.

I look forward to meeting more of you in the coming months and again affirm my commitment to you that I will continue to do all that I can to advance the mission of Northwestern State University.

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STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

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One-stop shop for students

® New Student Services Center brings many offices together under one roof

For Reatha Cox (1987, 1994), settling into her office in Northwestern State's new Student Services Center was more than a welcome change. Having more space and a well-organized facility helps her and her staff better meet their goal of engaging students in campus life and helping them make the most of their college experience.

Cox and her staff in Student Life and First Year Experience were among the first to move into the new building last summer and immediately set to work sorting the plethora of materials they use – boxes of t-shirts, signs, banners and promotional items -- into a storage area they lacked at the old office in the Student Union.

"We have so much more space here and it makes is much easier to stay organized," said the multi-tasking Cox as she deployed a group of Demon V.I.P.s (Volunteers in Progress) preparing for Welcome Week activities at the start of the Fall semester. "The more efficiently we operate, the better job we do of getting the students involved, which means they get more out of college, they stay in school and really develop during the time they are here."

The first state-funded new building constructed on the Northwestern State campus in over 30 years, the Student Services Center opened its doors last summer with occupants moving incrementally into 34,451 square foot facility that houses offices that deal directly with prospective and current student needs. The building is home to the Offices of University Recruiting, Student Life and First Year Experience, Financial Aid, Scholarships, Undergraduate and International

Admissions and Dean of Students as well as the Registrar's Office, Bursar's Office, Student Accounting and One Card Office. In addition to more efficient workspaces, the building has custom storage areas, rooms for staff meetings and space for personnel to meet with a student or a parent one on one.

"When you walk into this building, the first thing you see is University Recruiting. It's designed to make it easy for prospective students and their parents to get the information they need to start the process of enrollment," said Chris Maggio, dean of students and assistant provost for Student Life. "Rather than going around campus to several different buildings, our students are now able to make one stop to take care of several matters. This is much more convenient for the students and for those of us who work with them."

Gretchen White, a nursing major and student employee of Natchitoches who greets visitors in the Recruiting office, said the facility is more spacious and makes a better impression on prospective students than the office's former home South Hall.

"It's more user-friendly," White said. "It's nice to come to work in the new building and know that everything is here."

"It's nicer and more welcoming," said Tori Thompson of Houston, a sophomore student employee who has been working in Recruiting for a year. "It's much more up to date."

The three-story building is in the heart of the campus at the intersection Sam Sibley Drive and Caspari Street, the former site of West Caspari Hall. The \$5,960,000 million project was funded through \$98.4 million in surplus funds from the



Jana Lucky (1992, 1998), director of University Recruiting, moved boxes of materials into her new office in the Student Services Center. University Recruiting is on the first floor near the entrance of the new facility, conveniently placed to welcome prospective students seeking information about Northwestern State.



Renovation of Caspari Hall, a former men's dormitory, is underway and should be complete next year. The historic building will house the Office of the President and upper administration.

Student Services Center continued from page 1

2007-08 budget year set aside by Gov. Bobby Jindal and the state legislature. The money was specifically earmarked for one-time construction projects at state colleges and universities and could not be used to compensate for budget shortfalls. Ground for the Center broke in October 2010.

The waiting area in Financial Aid is more accommodating as well.

"It more accessible and there's more waiting space," said Emily Eaves of Natchitoches, a junior majoring in social work.

"It's a lot nicer and up to date," said Bridgette Crooks of Stanley (2003), who is pursuing a master's degree in counseling. "It's closer to the rest of the campus."

Marsha LaCour, verification officer in Financial Aid, saw hundreds of students pass through her office in the days prior to the Fall semester and often overheard positive comments.

"It's one stop. Instead of directing people all over campus, they can take care of most everything in one building. We just tell them what floor," LaCour said.

"It's one stop. Instead of directing people all over campus, they can take care of most everything in one building."

—Marsha LaCour, verification officer in Financial Aid

"We are very pleased in the outcome of this project," said Chuck Bourg, director of Physical Plant Operations, who oversaw the project. "We couldn't be happier with the outcome. It is definitely a showcase for our alumni, students, faculty and staff. I believe all will be proud of this facility. I sure am."

Meanwhile, construction continues on the old wing of Caspari Hall, which adjoins the Student Services Center. Caspari, a former men's dormitory, will house the offices of the president and upper administration. It is expected to be complete by Fall 2013.

The Student Services Center is the first new state-funded building for student use on campus since the new wing of the A.A. Fredericks Center for Creative and Performing Arts was completed in 1981.

"Bringing several offices that work closely with each other together under one roof makes it much easier to help students find answers and solve problems that may arise," Maggio said. "This building is going to help us make our students' experience the best it can be."



Students in Northwestern State's Presidential Leadership Program (PLP) utilize a spacious work area in the Student Services Center as they begin projects that develop leadership skills.



Army Colonel Dr. Fred Bosarge

Former Northwestern State administrator and retired Army Colonel Dr. Fred Bosarge (1961, 1970) was inducted into the Northwestern State Army ROTC Demon Regiment Hall of Fame as its 18th member. Bosarge served successively at

Northwestern from 1970-86 as Dean of Men, Dean of Students and Chief Student Affairs Officer.

More than 1,000 Army officers, including eight generals, have been commissioned by the Northwestern State ROTC program since its inception in 1950 and the Demon Regiment is comprised of the ROTC alumni. Hall of Fame members are selected by a panel of Demon Regiment officers and approved by the university president.

On active Army duty from 1961-68, Bosarge held command and staff positions in tank, cavalry and infantry units in Germany, Vietnam and the United States. In Vietnam in 1966-67, he advised Vietnamese infantry and special operations units in 51 combat operations. He was promoted to major during his seven years on active Army duty. He left active duty to pursue a career in higher education.

Bosarge then served in the active Army Reserve in an Army Reserve School as liaison officer with the Louisiana Army National Guard and as adjunct instructor in the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He retired in 1999 with 38 years of total Army service. During that time he earned the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, two awards of the South Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and commendation, campaign and service decorations.

In addition to his two NSU degrees, Bosarge earned a doctor of philosophy degree from Florida State University. After serving in administration for 16 years at Northwestern State, he continued in student affairs at Lander University, South Carolina, for another 19 years, retiring from Lander in 2005. He received awards from governmental, professional and student groups at national, regional, state and campus levels during his 35 years in higher education. He and his wife, the former Beverly Shirley of Natchitoches (1970, 1976), have been married over 43 years, have three daughters and five grandchildren. They reside in Greenwood, S.C.

William "J.W." Stine

In celebration of Sulphur native Jackson William "J.W." Stine's 94th birthday, Mayor Chris Duncan proclaimed July 22, 2012, as "J.W. Stine Day." Born on July 22, 1918, Stine attended Normal College, now Northwestern State University, on a football scholarship. He was also a Golden Gloves boxer. He married his high school sweetheart, Dee Dee Drost, in 1944, before he was sent overseas to fight in World War II. The couple was married for 67 years until Dee Dee's death in April 2011. Together they raised six sons and one daughter. They also have 31 grandchildren, 41 great grandchildren with three more on the way.

J.W. and his friend and future business partner, J.C. Carlin, joined the war effort at the same time, both enlisting in the Army Air Corps. First Lieutenant Stine piloted a B-26 bomber in 40 plus missions over Italy, Germany and France from Nov. 5, 1944, to April 25, 1945. He came back to Sulphur after his time in the military to open Starlin Lumber with Carlin. Stine eventually became the sole owner of the business and changed the company's name in the mid-1970s to Stine Lumber. Eleven store locations can now be found throughout Louisiana and one in Natchez, Mississippi. J. W. is a member of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church and a member of the Knights of Columbus. He has also been a member of the American Legion for many years. In 1989, he was awarded Citizen of the Year from the Diocese of Lake Charles.



James Larry Holly, M.D

James Larry Holly, M.D., a Beaumont family physician and CEO of Southeast Texas Medical Associates, was named the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient by the School of Medicine at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio. Holly earned his undergraduate degree in history at Northwestern State in 1965.

Holly was selected for his four decades of service to the Beaumont community, his unparalleled involvement in and support for the School of Medicine and his national leadership on key medical issues, including electronic health records and clinical decision support.

Holly is a founding partner of SETMA, a practice that exemplifies the concept of the patient-centered medical home. SETMA physicians strive to get close to their patients, establishing trust and positively impacting their care. Primary care is a "specialty of people," Holly said during a March speech at the Health Science Center. "Their stories are the most valuable things we've got." He is also an adjunct professor of family and community medicine at the Health Science Center.



Naval Aircrewman
Second Class Joseph
Patrick "JP" Fitzmorris

Fraternity, University remember fallen soldier

A re-chartering member of the Beta Omicron Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity at Northwestern State University was among those killed in a U.S. Navy helicopter crash in Oman. Naval Aircrewman Second Class Joseph Patrick "JP" Fitzmorris, 31, of West Monroe was aboard a MH-53 Sea Dragon helicopter that went down July 19, 2012, on the southeast coast of the Arabian Peninsula.

Fitzmorris and another crewman were declared deceased following a search of the wreckage and the surrounding crash site, according to the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Public Affairs office. Three other helicopter crewmembers survived. The crash, 58 miles southwest of Muscat, Oman, was not due to any sort of hostile activity, the Navy said in a news release. The crash remains under investigation. The Norfolk, Va.-based Helicopter Mine Countermeasure Squadron (HM) 15, also known as the "Blackhawks," was conducting heavy lift support operations at the time.

On July 23, fellow service members and friends held a

memorial service in Bahrain for Fitzmorris and his fallen crewmate, Chief Naval Aircrewman Sean P. Sullivan. Commanding officers offered an invocation and remarks about their selfless devotion to duty and unwavering commitment to the Navy, according to a Navy news release.

The Public Affairs office reported Fitzmorris joined the Navy in 2004 as an aviation electrician's mate and continued his service as a naval aircrewman. Fitzmorris completed tours with Helicopter Training Squadron (HT) 8, HT 28, and HM-15.

Fitzmorris, who grew up in Ruston, was married in February to the former Jacqueline Gulla, also a U.S. Navy sailor. A 1999 graduate of Ruston High School, he studied Health and Exercise Science at Northwestern State and Louisiana Tech.

In 2000, Fitzmorris was one of 29 members that re-chartered the Beta Omicron Chapter after nearly two decades of dormancy on the NSU campus. On Feb. 12, 2000, he became the chapter's 303 member, a re-founding father. Beta Omicron Chapter alumni and student members are currently discussing ideas for memorializing his service and sacrifice.

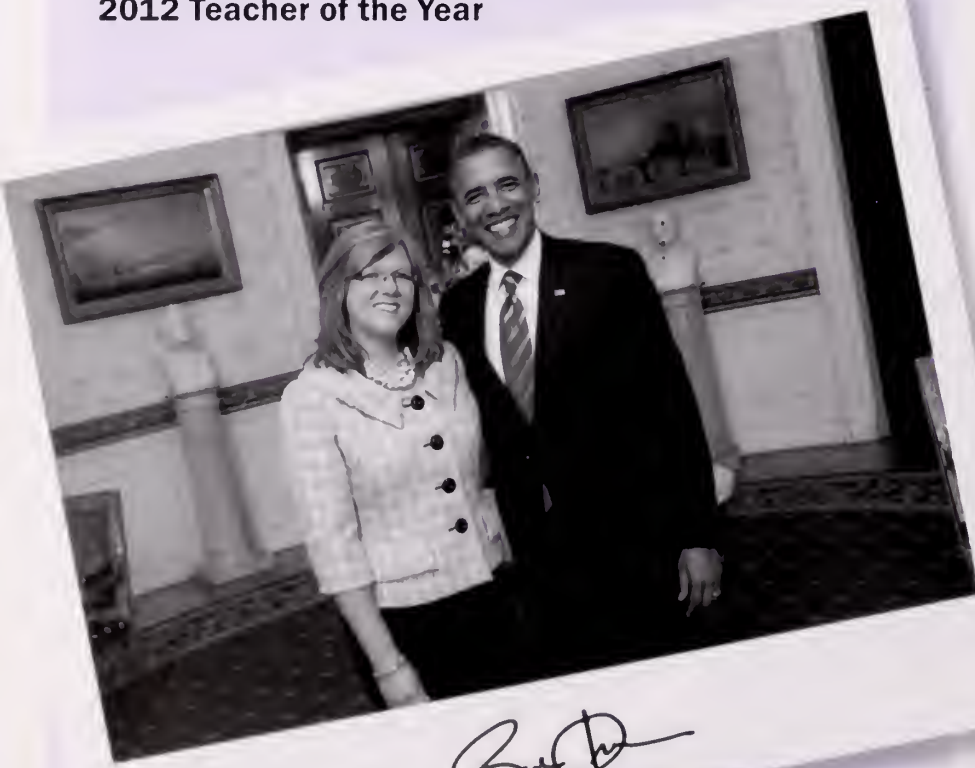
Funeral services were held Aug. 3 at Trinity Methodist Church in Ruston.

Friends can view a video tribute created by the Blackhawk Squadron at this website:

<http://pikappnsu.org/2012/07/22/pi-kappa-phi-alumnus-killed-in-navy-helicopter-crash/#more-2388>



April Jessup Giddens, Louisiana's 2012 Teacher of the Year



April Jessup Giddens, Louisiana's 2012 Teacher of the Year, met President Barack Obama during the National Teacher of the Year event in Washington, D.C., earlier this year. Giddens and Teachers of the Year from every other state were honored with a reception and attended a round table discussion at the U.S. Department of Education. Giddens earned her bachelor's degree in 1996 and master's degree in 1998 from Northwestern. She is a sixth grade teacher at Natchitoches Magnet School. As Teacher of the Year, Giddens served as a special advisor to the Louisiana Department of Education. She is a Florien native and married to Mike Giddens, a 1994 graduate of Northwestern.

They have three children, Hannah, Timothy and Emma.

Hillman sisters fulfill parents' dream of earning college degrees

Many early 20th century residents of rural Louisiana who were not able to pursue much formal education often saw attending college as a gateway to opportunity for their children. Such was the case with one central Louisiana family, whose patriarch constantly emphasized the importance of an education and pushed his children towards achieving college degrees.

"There were 10 children in our father's family, five boys and five girls. Our grandfather did not stress education. The boys had to drop out of school and work on the farm. The girls did not graduate from high school," said Alice Faye Hillman Spurgeon of Pineville (1957). "Our uncle, Jimmy Hillman, was the first one to attend college in our family."

After Jimmy Hillman's discharge from the Coast Guard, his brother Houston, Spurgeon's father, urged him to attend Northwestern State on the G.I. Bill. He majored in industrial arts, graduated in 1949, earned a graduate degree in Arkansas and was hired to teach industrial arts in Longville in Beauregard Parish, where he also coached boys and girls basketball. He, too, encouraged the young members of his extended family to strive towards a college education.

"Five out of six of us went to NSU and were teachers," said Spurgeon, the oldest of the six girls who grew up in rural Rapides Parish and pursued degrees at Northwestern State University. The five graduates, in addition to Spurgeon who earned a degree in upper elementary education, are Bettie Sue Hillman Henagan of Moss Bluff (1958), math and education; Shirley Ruth Hillman Groves of Westlake (1967), health and physical education and recreation, and M.Ed. from McNeese; Lois Marie Hillman Johnson of Rapides Station (1984), M.Ed., and Judie Mae Hillman Morrison of Madison, Miss., (1971), health, physical education and safety.

"From our dad, we heard at breakfast, dinner and supper, 'You're going to get an education,'" said Spurgeon, who grew up on Lena Road and graduated from Boyce High School. "I started at Northwestern and my sisters followed suit."

Hillman taught junior high math a total of 32.86 years at Alexandria Junior High, where Tom Paul Southerland (1943), later a long-time administrator at Northwestern, was her principal. She also taught one year in Calcasieu Parish. Her sisters also went to work in Rapides Parish.

"At one time, there were three of us teaching at Alexandria Junior High," she said.

During their careers in education, Johnson served as an administrator in Rapides Parish and Groves taught at Lake Charles High School and was director of the well-known Kitties marching group. Henagan taught at Lagrange Jr. High



Sisters Alice Faye Hillman Spurgeon, Bettie Sue Hillman Henagan, Virginia Ann Hillman McCann, Lois Marie Hillman Johnson, Shirley Ruth Hillman Groves and Judie Mae Hillman Morrison all earned degrees.

and was also principal of a private school in Texas. Morrison taught in Lake Charles and in Spring, Texas.

As an undergraduate, Spurgeon had a student job in NSU's Physical Education Department with coaches Red Thomas, Walter Ledet and Cracker Brown. Doc Marx, a P.E. professor and athletic trainer, made a memorable impression. She recalled fellow students were Joe Sampité, who served as Natchitoches mayor from 1980-2000, and Robert Alost, who taught with Spurgeon at Alexandria Jr. High and served as president of Northwestern State from 1986-1996.

"From our dad, we heard at breakfast, dinner and supper, 'You're going to get an education.' I started at Northwestern and my sisters followed suit."

As the years passed, more of the family enrolled at Northwestern. Another sister, Virginia Ann Hillman McCann, earned a degree in accounting at LSU-A; however, her daughter Terri Annette McCann Jensen, graduated from Northwestern State in 1986 with a degree in elementary education. Spurgeon's granddaughter-in-law Amber Nicole Sharpe Spurgeon of Prospect graduated from NSU with a general studies degree in 2010.

Because of their parents' Houston and Mary Hillman's, belief in the benefits of a college education, none of the Hillman girls doubted they would earn a degree.

"We never considered not going," Spurgeon said. "I wanted to be able to take care of myself and back then your choices were teaching and nursing. We all chose teaching."

See more Alumni stories in the Lagniappe section of the online extended version of the Alumni Columns fall issue at northwesternalumni.com/lagniappe

Bailey takes music, marching experience to Asia

"I believe that music can have a positive impact on young adults' lives and can also teach strong life lessons such as discipline and teamwork," said Northwestern State alumnus Trevor Bailey, a 2011 graduate who spent several months earlier this year traveling throughout Asia sharing his love and knowledge of music. He served as a guest clinician for both concert and marching bands during his trip.

"The opportunity to adjudicate and teach music ensembles on this grand of a stage is not very common," said Bailey, who was invited to judge the 31st Annual Thailand Royal Cup Marching and Concert Band Championships, an international three-day music contest that features the best marching and concert bands in Asia. "I was very humbled to be granted this opportunity. Members of the Thai government and royal family were in attendance throughout the competition."

Along with the judging opportunity came an invitation to be a guest speaker at the 1st Annual Thailand Marching Band Clinic.

"Speakers at this event included individuals who are associated with some of the best music ensembles in the United States and I made it a point to feature the Spirit of Northwestern Demon Marching Band several times throughout this clinic," he said. "During this clinic, I was asked to engage in several open forums in which band directors and students ranging from ages 12-21 were able to ask me and the other panelists questions about how to make their marching bands more successful."

He also presented a clinic on singing in the classroom.

"The topic was 'Bands Can Sing... Yes We Can!' The crowd certainly got a kick out of the title. The discussion was centered on the importance of singing for the members of any music ensemble," he explained. "I very clearly laid out the correct techniques needed to obtain the best results and prepared numerous handouts for each attending participant. The packet included a list of correct ways to approach singing and also some common faults to be mindful of both as an instructor and student. Also enclosed were ways to achieve good classroom management skills and how to keep students engaged and active while teaching your ensemble how to sing. All 125 participants actively showed off their vocal abilities at the end of the lecture by demonstrating the examples I provided in the packet. It was well received by all the attendees and my fellow colleagues."

A Shreveport native, Bailey earned a bachelor's degree in music at Northwestern State, where he played euphonium in the Spirit of Northwestern Demon Marching Band. While at NSU he was an active member of Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

"My involvement with these groups allowed me to become a great team player and also helped to develop good management skills," he said. "My relationship with my primary professor, Dr. Masahito Kuroda was very helpful to me. Dr. Kuroda was born in Japan and understands the Asian culture very well. We exchanged many phone calls and emails about what to expect from the students and teachers I would be dealing with on a daily basis. I was more prepared because

he took the time out of his busy schedule to discuss these topics with me and for that I am so grateful to him."

Bailey credits contacts developed through his

involvement with summer drum and bugle corps, competitive marching units that consist of percussion and brass instruments and color guard, for generating the opportunity to teach and lecture in Asia.

"I received a call from Stephen Mason, a graduate assistant for the UCLA marching band who I met in 2010 when I hired him as an instructor for The Troopers Drum and Bugle Corps. We worked together during those summer months and instantly had a mutual respect for one another," Bailey said. "I also contribute my relationship with The Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps as a reason why I was hired. I worked with this group during the 2011 season. The Cavaliers are seven-time Drum Corps International World Champions and this marching unit consists of some of the best instructional staff and college-aged musicians in the world."

In the wake of these opportunities, Bailey's most meaningful experience came working for Yamaha Band Instruments of Thailand for 10 weeks, during which time he traveled across Malaysia and Thailand teaching a total of 1,100 students.

"I gave clinics on how to play instruments starting from a basic level leading up to an advanced level. A company translator accompanied me for almost my entire trip. The students' attitudes were always positive and they were ready to meet their goals every single day. The main group I instructed was the Horwang Marching Band from Bangkok, Thailand. This group is made up of 70 marching members who perform at a level I have never seen before from such young students. We spent a total of 8 weeks putting a marching band show entitled 'Currents... Air, Water, Electric on the field.'"

The performance of the show took place after Bailey returned to the United States in June and began preparations for graduate school. The Horwang Marching Band placed 2nd at the National Indoor Championships.

"I could not have done these jobs at a high level if I did not have the proper training from the amazing faculty at Northwestern State University," Bailey said. "Their diverse knowledge of every single music ensemble available allowed me to have all the tools necessary to approach the challenges that faced me with the highest amount of confidence. Being a music major at NSU definitely help my experiences in Thailand and Malaysia. It was because of the training I received from these outstanding professors that I walked into this opportunity feeling confident about my abilities. The music faculty at NSU is awesome and is lead by one of the best educators I know, Mr. Bill Brent. My experiences with them have always been positive and encouraging. Anytime I needed a pat on the back or a little tough love they were always there. Never for a moment did I feel alone."



Bailey's most meaningful experiences in Asia were working with band students in Malaysia and Thailand.

Alumna named Louisiana's 2013 Middle School Teacher of the Year

Amanda Warren knew all her life she wanted to be a teacher. The daughter of teachers, she often played school in her mother's classroom and although her parents suggested she pursue a different career path, she followed her heart into education.

"I love the joy on my students' faces when they learn something and realize how much fun it is to learn," Warren said. "I have so much energy and passion for teaching and that filters down to the students. It's also rewarding when they take lessons home to work on and bring them back to share."

Warren, a fourth grade teacher at Lake Harbor Middle School in Mandeville, was named Louisiana's 2013 Middle School Teacher of the Year by the Louisiana Department of Education in July. She is a 2009 graduate of Northwestern State University's graduate program in Technology Leadership for K-12 teachers.

Warren earned her undergraduate degree at Louisiana State University in 2003 and began her 10th year of teaching this fall. She enrolled in Northwestern State's master's program, which is administered through the school's College of Education and Human Development, upon the recommendation of colleagues who also completed M.Ed. degrees through similar programs at Northwestern State.

"I knew I wanted to focus on technology because I believe that is the future. I was attracted to the program because I had the ability to complete the degree on-line and I enjoyed my professors."

Warren is married to Joel Warren and the mother of two young children. She was one of eight regional finalists picked earlier this year for the recognition. She teaches a self-contained fourth grade class, which means she teaches all subjects to her class at Lake Harbor, a school with about 700 fourth through sixth grade students. She acknowledged her colleagues and her principal, Susan Patin, for their support.

"I come from a family of educators. I've always known I wanted to be a teacher and I love it," she said.

"Great teachers and great leaders are the heart and soul of great schools. These distinguished educators and administrators are a fine representation of the high-caliber professionals we are fortunate to have in Louisiana public schools," State Superintendent John White said. "Each of the educators we honored during the celebration of education represents the backbone of our educational system. They are shaping the lives of our children, and we all enjoy thanking them in this very special way."

Principals and teachers are selected based on their leadership and teaching skills, respectively, as well as their dedication and respect of students, parents and colleagues; demonstrated school and community leadership; affiliations with educational organizations; ability to inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities; and their commitment to their profession.

Northwestern State University's College of Education and Human Development produced several regional winners for 2013 Louisiana Teacher of the Year.

Regional finalists at the high school level were Dewey Gladen Eaves, Jr. (2004) of Zwolle High School and Melanie Schweiger (1996) of Stanley High School. At the middle school level, regional finalists were June M. Bergeron (2004) of North Vermilion High School, Monica Alphonso (2008) of Anacoco Elementary School and Amy Crain of Dutchtown Middle School, a current student completing a master's in curriculum and instruction. Erica Guillory of R.W. Vincent Elementary School, who is currently taking classes at NSU for add on certification in academically gifted, was a regional finalist at the elementary level.

Last year, April Jessup Giddens, who earned undergraduate and master's degrees at Northwestern State, was the overall Louisiana Teacher of the Year.

For more information on graduate programs offered through Northwestern State's College of Education and Human Development, visit education.nsula.edu or e-mail education@nsula.edu.



"I love the joy on my students' faces when they learn something and realize how much fun it is to learn."

NSU graduate Amanda Warren was named the 2013 Middle School Teacher of the Year by the Louisiana Department of Education.

A frightening brush with danger on an industrial site changed Kirk Martin's life and career. The incident prompted the Northwestern State University alumnus to use his skills as an artist in Louisiana's growing movie industry and today is finding success in a field he always dreamed about. One of his projects, *Arachnoquake*, debuted on the Syfy Channel last summer.

"It was the best decision I ever made. It is a struggle getting started and this industry can be mean and cold. I moved without a job but I saved enough money to get by for a good while," he said. "I knew the risk and the struggles ahead from the beginning but I kept in mind that it would be worth it in the future. Without failure there is no success. I have failed and succeeded."

Martin graduated from Northwestern State in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in fine art with a concentration in graphic communications, but found work in another field.

"After I graduated from NSU, I worked at a natural gas and oil well service company in Coushatta where I had a lot of close calls with injury or possible death. One particularly close call changed my mind about what I should be doing to make it as

Kirk Martin is shown at work creating a set piece for a film.



Martin shoots for the stars with burgeoning film career

an artist and a professional in my field," Martin said. Within a few months, Martin moved to Baton Rouge to pursue his dream.

"I started doing internships randomly with no pay and did some extra (background) acting work on a few different shows, strictly because I needed money," Martin said. "Then I got an email to be a props assistant on a show and said yes, even though I didn't get paid. The producers of that movie backed out and shut it down while we were in preproduction. The props master from that show brought me on to a Syfy flick the next day, where I did some graphics for them and the art director decided to pay me as an art production assistant. I basically was a jack-of-all-trades. I did graphics, props, built sets, painted and aged walls and a lot of little things that I couldn't have done if I didn't get my BFA from NSU."

Once that show wrapped up, Martin stayed in touch with co-workers and created graphics for other movies they were working on. The company Martin works for, Active Entertainment, contracts with the Syfy Channel and he has worked on five different movies as a graphic artist, illustrator for costumes, set dresser, on-set dresser, set construction, scenic painter and other uncredited positions.

"Since last year I've been on full throttle with working and they love my graphics and I constantly surprise them at what I can do and do well," he said. "Everything I learned from [Professor] Michael Yankowski and NSU, especially from the fine and graphic arts classes, have helped me with a lot of things in the film industry."

As an undergraduate, Martin made a movie for an independent study class based on tales of a notorious band of late 19th century Louisiana outlaws.

"It's a Civil War-era film that takes place during Reconstruction called 'South Hills' starring my brother and a friend. It's really amateur because I had no experience in this line of work, but it turned out all right. I'm proud of it. I made everything as original as I could, all the way down to the music I composed for the soundtrack."

Arachnoquake aired in June. The film stars Edward Furlong, Tracy Gold and Bug Hall. He worked on *American Horror House* starring Morgan Fairchild, *Heebie Jeebies* and *Winged Terror*. He began day playing with Louisiana Media Productions on a film called *Pawn Shop Chronicles*.

"Being an artist is always going to be a struggle and an unappreciated profession. I've accepted that and don't worry about it. I just keep making things look good, get paid and people wonder, 'How do they do it?' In this business when sets aren't ready or 'right' the art department gets all the blame, but when they are ready and look good we never get any praise for it. It's the nature of the business and I am learning more everyday."

Martin said many opportunities exist in the film industry and he encourages student artists to follow their dreams.

"Louisiana is making a lot of shows, from Shreveport to New Orleans and all in between. You can make a career doing things that seem like unattainable dreams without moving out of state," he said. "The advice that I would give a student wanting to pursue a career in the film industry would be to save money and make a decision on where you want to live, whether Baton Rouge, Shreveport or New Orleans. Save a lot of money because the work is unpredictable and sometimes unreliable. I had to do some extra (background acting) work just to help pay my bills for a few months. If you can manage your money well then you will be all right but if you can't then your going to have problems."

"I love my job. It's something I always wanted to do but was always been something that was unattainable in my mind," he said. "But the dream was attainable after all."

Laird named acting director of University Advancement

Brad Laird, a 1997 graduate of Northwestern State, has been named acting director of University Advancement, succeeding Drake Owens, who handled that role since 2008. The appointment is subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana system.

Laird was previously Northwestern State's associate head football coach and defensive coordinator.

Laird will oversee the NSU Alumni Association and the NSU Foundation. The Alumni Association promotes the advancement of academic excellence by developing coalition among alumni, students, friends and the university community, while supporting the university's traditions, values and future. The NSU Foundation serves the university, its students and faculty primarily through financial resources raised and distributed.

"It was tremendously difficult to step away from the football team and athletic department, and especially the coaches, players and staff I've worked alongside. It has been a privilege every step of the way. I will forever cherish the love and

friendship that I've enjoyed with the Demon football family, but for my family, and for my university, this new job is a fantastic opportunity. Renee and I love NSU, we love Natchitoches, and we look forward to this new adventure in our lives."

Owens, who was part of record fundraising and alumni outreach in his four years in the position, praised the selection of Laird as his successor.

"Brad is a team player who will be a great leader for the variety of talented people we have on our staff. He's going to appeal to our alumni and donor base as somebody who can speak to all aspects of our university. He's been selling Northwestern State University to recruits, their families and their coaches," said Owens. "He knows about the great assets we have, the tremendous stories we have to tell. He'll relate to someone who just graduated, and he'll appeal to someone who's receiving a 50-year anniversary diploma. He just has a great demeanor and sincerely loves our university."



Brad Laird, 1998

The 2012 Tony Awards shined a spotlight on Northwestern State University alumnus Bruston Kade Manuel when *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess* won Best Revival of a Musical at the 66th annual awards ceremony that recognizes achievement in live Broadway theatre. Manuel's independent entertainment production company, Paper Boy Productions, is a co-producer of the show.

"It was an amazing event. The theatre community in New York City is very close knit, so everyone wants you to succeed. I was on pins and needles the whole night because we were up against stiff competition," he said. "What winning the Tony Award means for this production is an increase in exposure and interest. After winning, we saw a huge spike in our ticket sales, which keeps us running and makes the show profit."

Manuel founded Paper Boy Productions with Will Dombrowski in 2010 and their producer/investor resumé includes *Annie* (Australia), *The Addams Family*, *Colin Quinn Long Story Short*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *A Life in the Theatre*, *Hairspray* (UK), *Next to Normal*, *Chicago* (Australia), and *Little Miss Sunshine*, currently in development.

"I am an 'above the title' producer, which means that I raised substantial capital from investors for the show," he explained. "Although I didn't have a hand in developing the show, I was brought on board early in its inception to raise funds to make the show a reality. Once the show returns the initial principle to all our investors, which is called recouping, then we are in profit. This show has the potential to run for quite some time in profit, which means investors in the show

will continue to reap financial rewards of investing in theatre."

Manuel moved to New York City shortly after graduating from Northwestern State in 2003. He began his college career as a music education major and later changed to vocal music, performing with the concert and chamber choirs. He was a drum major for the Spirit of Northwestern Demon Marching Band. After moving to NYC, he auditioned for musical theatre roles and discovered an affinity for the business side of Broadway. While still auditioning, he worked for a private family-run office, which influenced him to start Paper Boy Productions with a friend.

Last year, Manuel initiated the Carolyn Smith Manuel Music Scholarship for an upperclassman music education major at Northwestern State, which is named for his mother, and contributed to the Spirit of Northwestern uniform drive. He said his performing experiences at Northwestern State help him predict what draws positive response from an audience. Winning a Tony Awards gives Manuel credibility as a producer who knows how to pick great works that have the potential for a long run, which drives profits for individual investors.

"Through my company, I hope to acquire more and more investors that are interested in putting their money in theatrical entertainment with the promise of solid returns," he said. "Investing in theatre has become a big business. Art really does meet commerce. In 2011, Broadway generated \$18 billion for the NYC economy."

For more information on Manuel's company, visit paperboyproductions.net.



Making An Impact >>> Becca Hayes

An interest in visiting a Caribbean island led Becca Hayes to join a mission trip earlier this year that became "one of the most incredible experiences in my life...and I'm not just talking about the trip alone. It has been an amazing journey filled with leaps of faith, many miracles and the development of some great relationships."



Hayes was part of a team from East-West Ministries and Cypress Bible Church of Cypress, Texas, who shared the Christian gospel with residents of a small communist island nation. The trip's coordinating organization, East West Ministries, is a group focused on reaching people with restricted access to Christianity in countries with varying political and spiritual climates. Hayes is prohibited from naming her specific destination for fear of making conditions unsafe for the churches she visited or blocking the group from going back.

"A lady I am friends with in Bible study became a full time missionary and this island is one of her territories. I committed to going in January," she said.

The team left for the Caribbean in June, met with translators and headed to their partnering church, its pastor and members. There they prepared for the next five days of ministry in which they were invited into people's home for evangelical work.

"I was amazed about how open the people were," Hayes said. "They were so open hearing the Gospel. The poverty is overwhelming in the Caribbean. It was difficult to see the endless needs. But something that the Christians over there have that we don't is pure joy. I think that in America we have so much we forget that joy doesn't come from material things."

The trip wasn't Hayes' first ministry opportunity. She participated in two medical mission trips to Bolivia where her expertise as a nurse helped improve the lives of many children.

"In Bolivia, we did cardiac surgery for kids with congenital heart defects," she said. "After I did the first trip, my whole outlook on life changed. Seeing how

people in third world countries live put things in perspective for me. We are so blessed in America. So blessed."

Her latest trip was not a medical mission, but an evangelical one.

"As much as the first trip to Bolivia changed me, this trip was even more profound. It is hard to describe how awesome it was to go into someone's home and share with them the love of God, in spite of my limited ability to present or even speak their language. It was beyond great."

Hayes grew up in Natchitoches and graduated from St. Mary's High School. She transferred to Northwestern State from LSU in 1990 to play basketball and run track. She graduated with a general studies degree in 1993 and from the School of Nursing in 1995. Her brother Randolph played football at Northwestern from 1986-1990.

"I've always felt so grateful to be able to come back home and finish my eligibility and find my way in what would become a passionate career in nursing," Hayes said.

She lives in Houston with her dog Gracy and works as an education specialist in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital. Her recent mission experience led her out of her comfort zone and stretched her faith, she said.

"I would like to become a full time missionary. Not right now, but in the next decade or whenever God calls me to that and makes provision for me. I can't tell you how it has put my life into perspective and how my priorities have completely changed.

"I plan on going back to the Caribbean as soon as I can," Hayes said. "I have discovered that I have a gift for evangelism and for encouraging others. It was so much fun to be with the Christians and encourage them as well as to see others accept Christ into their hearts. I have done medical missions before but I have never felt so absolutely like I am using my gifts and talents completely."

Black Church History

CHC collecting histories of black church in Natchitoches Parish

The Creole Heritage Center at Northwestern State University is beginning a project to document the history of black churches in Natchitoches Parish and is seeking input from pastors and congregations willing to share church histories and records.

Researchers plan to compile an index of churches and eventually publish a book that would be of interest to historians and genealogists. The Center was awarded a grant from the Cane River National Heritage Area to begin the first phase of the project.

"In the first phase, we will work to compile a list of churches and contacts. Then we will create a survey asking if they have their church history. Many churches do and they read those on their church anniversary," said graduate student Markita Hamilton, the project's principal investigator. She plans to work with the Natchitoches Ministerial Alliance and attend district church meetings in search of records pertaining to births, baptisms, deaths, marriages, pastors, memberships and any photographs that may exist. Hamilton hopes congregations will be willing to have their records scanned, digitized and eventually made searchable. "I'm very interested in the little known facts about each church."

"There was a book published in 2001 entitled, *Historic Black Churches of Natchitoches Parish* which only included approximately 40 churches," said Loletta Wynder, project coordinator for the Creole Heritage Center. "In our primary research, we have found that there were many more thriving churches that were not included, some that were established over 100 years ago. In addition, we need to include other churches that were established over the last ten years, after the printing of the original book. The project could grow and grow, but first we have to get the information."

Hamilton and Wynder will give priority to older churches that have the most fragile records. They will document cemeteries associated with the churches, deacons and information

pertaining to how each church was established. They are also interested in how the churches got their names and if the name changed over the years.

"Church records are important. Some churches were built on land donated to the congregation from neighboring landowners in which case, there would be a record in the courthouse describing plats and where it came from," Wynder said. A wealth of information can also be gathered from funeral programs and prayer cards that list dates and biographical information about the deceased.

Many churches have a long history with freemasonry with records that document cornerstone laying. Church records also often demonstrate a close connection between religion and education in the black community, Hamilton said, as many churches began in schools and many schools began in churches.

The Guide to Black Churches in Natchitoches Parish will include those that descend from churches that no longer exist and those that were formed when a congregation split. Often churches with similar names were once one church, Wynder explained, and there are some instances of congregations changing denominations altogether after a split. Those splits sometimes present a challenge to collecting and documenting records; elders may be hesitant to exhume old conflicts and, because small churches are so closely tied to family history, resentment over a split can endure for generations.

"Many church members remain faithful members of their family's church, even if they move to a different part of the parish and many churches are populated by members of the same family. All the members are related," Hamilton said.

Another challenge is that records passed down through decades of church secretaries sometimes get lost or placed in a cabinet and forgotten, Hamilton said. The Creole Heritage Center has resources to help congregations properly archive their documents



Savior Baptist Church on Cane River

to preserve them.

The Rev. Henry Edwards, pastor of St. Savior Baptist Church near Vienna Bend, is enthusiastic about the project, not only in recording the history of his 130-year-old church, but also some of the traditions associated with baptism, communion and celebrations like Homecoming and Family and Friends Day.

"I would be eager to share," said Edwards, who described the old St. Savior building, where the bell tolled for funerals and congregants shared meals under the trees by Cane River surrounded by cotton and cornfields. "There are some things that should never die. You want to make sure your children and grandchildren balance the present with the past so they respect and know what took place. Without the old, you can't have the new."

"Our main focus is genealogy. The first step is to get the church history itself and find out if they have records of baptism, marriages, death and who is buried in the cemetery," Wynder said. "Once printed, this book will be an excellent tool for churches, genealogical associations and family members researching their family information. On a personal note, I am hoping that it will help me to fill in some of the gaps on my own family tree."

For more information on *The Guide to Black Churches in Natchitoches Parish*, contact Hamilton at the Creole Heritage Center at (318) 357-6685.



Waskom property donated to NSU through planned bequest

Northwestern State University alumnus and Natchitoches businessman Lee Waskom and his wife Ginny established a planned gift through the NSU Foundation in which a strip of property along University Parkway will be donated to the university upon his death. The donation includes 12-1/2 lots with an appraised value at over \$2.1 million, the second largest bequest in university history, officials announced.

"My life was all about Northwestern," Waskom said. "I bleed purple and white. It's been a joy to work with the Foundation and to feel able to contribute. I was able to purchase and develop this property so at the end of my life and Ginny's, it will pass to NSU. I trust the Foundation and know they will manage it well. I hope it's 40 or 50 years from now and I hope the property continues to increase in value."

The property is located opposite NSU's Watson Library and currently houses several businesses.

Waskom earned a degree in accounting at Northwestern State in 1986, but his family's association with the university goes back much further. His family moved to Natchitoches when he was 11 months old when his father, Dr. John Waskom, became a member of the faculty. The family purchased Pat's Economy in 1985, later renamed Campus Corner, a college-oriented bookstore that sold teaching aids, classroom materials, office supplies, textbooks and clothing. The business flourished during several years that Northwestern

State experienced unprecedented growth, eventually growing to seven locations in north and central Louisiana. Several members of the Waskom family and friends joined Lee Waskom as he announced a planned property bequest to Northwestern State University upon his death. The property is located across University Parkway from NSU's Watson Library. From left are Evelyn Anderson, former director of operations for Campus Corner Bookstores; Rita Fontenot, Sara Waskom, Mary Kay Waskom, Ginny and Lee Waskom, Tracy Brown and Michele and Scott Waskom.

State experienced unprecedented growth, eventually growing to seven locations in north and central Louisiana.

Waskom attended the NSU Elementary Lab and Middle Lab schools and several members of his immediate and extended family also graduated from Northwestern. He served on the NSU Foundation Board of Directors, including a term as president, during the university's first-ever capital campaign that raised more than \$17 million. He has also served as president of the Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce and as a board member and treasurer of Natchitoches Kiwanis Club and the Historic District Business Association. Waskom has been an active personal and financial supporter of many local charitable organizations. In 2005, he was inducted into the Northwestern State School of Business Hall of Distinction.

"I think of what a perfect gentleman Lee is and what a pleasure he has been to work with," said NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb. "This gift could not be more timely. This places Northwestern in a firm position for the future and says a lot about the legacy of the Waskom family and what they mean to Northwestern State."

"I'd like to encourage others to consider this type of option for a gift to the university," Waskom said. "It's a gift after I'm gone that will provide for NSU and help build a wonderful future here."

Pilot Club Scholarship will address brain injury treatment and advocacy

The Pilot Club of Many has initiated an endowed scholarship through a donation of \$15,000 to the Northwestern State University Foundation that will benefit a student whose field of study will impact individuals who have suffered a traumatic brain injury or have a brain-related disability. Likely candidates would be students majoring in education, social work, counseling, nursing or biology/pre-med. First preference will be given to a graduate of Many High School with a grade point average of 3.5 or better. The scholarship will be a one-time award presented annually to an incoming freshman chosen by a committee at Many High School.

The ideal recipient for the award "would be a student whose concentration is focused on helping those who have suffered strokes, brain injuries or brain-related disorders," said Barbara Crow, club officer and Pilot International Foundation representative.

According to Many Pilot Club President Jan Varnado, the philanthropic focus of the Pilot Club International is the prevention and treatment of brain injuries and brain disorders. Varnado said the Many Pilot Club, a service group chartered in 1972, is disbanding and proceeds from the sale of the Pilot Club House are being dispersed to organizations that support the club's mission.

"We are so pleased to be able to do this," Varnado said. "We always looked forward to presenting an annual scholarship to a Many High School graduate and this will ensure that the award will continue, even though the Club is no longer there."

"Scholarships are a priority for Pilot International," said Pansy Morgan, Pilot Club secretary. "This guarantees that a student from Many High School will receive this scholarship and go on to work in a field related to brain injuries."



Members of the Many Pilot Club have ensured that the Club's legacy of service will continue by donating \$15,000 to the Northwestern State University Foundation to create a scholarship to benefit a student pursuing a career in a field that will help individuals with brain injuries or brain-related disorders. From left are Barbara Crow, Pilot Club International Foundation representative; Drake Owens, former director of the NSU Foundation; Pilot Club President Jan Varnado; Pilot Club Secretary Pansy Morgan, Acting NSU Foundation Director Brad Laird and NSU's Assistant Director of Development Jill Bankston.

"We are happy to accept this on behalf of the Foundation," said Drake Owens, former executive director of the NSU Foundation. "The strength of Northwestern State's programs in education, special education, social work, counseling, biology and nursing align with the Club's goals of assisting individuals with brain injuries through professional medical treatment, therapy and advocacy."

For information on making a contribution to support the Pilot Club of Many Scholarship, contact Jill Bankston, associate director of Development, at (318) 357- 4241 or e-mail bankstonj@nsula.edu.

Officers in the disbanding Pilot Club of Many finalized the donation to the Northwestern State University Foundation that provides scholarship dollars for a graduate of Many High School intent on pursuing a career to benefit individuals with a brain injury or disorder. From left are Pilot Club President Jan Varnado, Pilot Club International Foundation Representative Barbara Crow, Pilot Club Secretary Pansy Morgan and Drake Owens, former executive director of the NSU Foundation.



Education scholarship to assist Vernon, Beauregard women



After a long career in education, Dr. Diane Knight, center, has established several scholarships to help women from rural Louisiana pursue teaching degrees. From left are former NSU Director of University Advancement Drake Owens, Knight, and Assistant Director of Development Jill Bankston.

A Northwestern State University alumna and long-time educator established a planned gift through the Northwestern State University Foundation that will help students from rural west central Louisiana pursue careers in education. The Dr. Diane Knight Scholarship in Education will be presented to a one female student from Beauregard Parish and one female student from Vernon Parish seeking degrees in education from Northwestern State University.

Students chosen must be an incoming freshman with a minimum 3.0 grade point average with a demonstrated financial need. The students may retain the scholarship up to four years if the criteria is continuously met.

Knight was born in Beauregard Parish and graduated from Evans High School in Vernon Parish. She hopes the scholarship will help women achieve career goals, particularly those who may be returning to the classroom as non-traditional students with family responsibilities.

"In those areas, there is still little opportunity for employment, with most professional women working as teachers or nurses," Knight said. "I wanted to

provide an opportunity for women in those areas."

Knight earned her undergraduate degree in business and English education at McNeese State University in 1976 and master's degree in special education at Northwestern State in 1980. She also earned plus 30 in education administration supervision and completed her Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction at NSU in 1986. She taught special education for many years before moving into administration and working with pupil appraisal in the public school system and the prison system.

During her career, she also taught at the college level at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, where she was director of special education; the University of Georgia and the University of Arkansas-Little Rock, where she was an assistant dean in the College of Education.

Dr. Knight established identical scholarships at McNeese State University.

Her mother, Willie Mae Hunter, a Coushatta native, graduated from Northwestern State in 1940.

Schelette Scholarship awarded to outstanding accounting major

Joe Schelette believes in education and, still in the midst of a long career, generously supports students in Northwestern State University's School of Business through a scholarship awarded annually to an upper level student majoring in accounting.

"I like young people and I like working with kids," he said. "Accounting is a tough major. If I can help a student, that's my goal in life."

Schelette's accounting scholarship is designated to a junior-level student with a 3.5 or higher grade point average. The scholarship was established in 2010 through a matching program with his employer, Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO), a division of American Electric Power. Schelette has been with the company for 34 years.

Caitlin Guillory of Marksville was last year's recipient. Guillory is an accounting major with a 3.8 grade point average and will graduate in May 2013.

Schelette graduated from Northwestern State in 1969. He intended to study business education, but a high school counselor noticed he was good at bookkeeping and suggested he go into accounting. He is a self-described work-a-holic who still puts in 9 and 10 hour days, has weathered company reorganization and enjoys finding new challenges.

Schelette is also an avid supporter of Northwestern State athletics and is a member of the Athletic Association Board of Directors.



Northwestern State University accounting student Caitlin Guillory of Marksville was the recipient of a scholarship established by Joe Schelette, a 1969 graduate of Northwestern.

Collins Family Pavilion

Northwestern State Director of Athletics Greg Burke recently presented a token of appreciation to Dannie and Molly Collins, and their children Daniel and Cassie, for their generous support that made building the Collins Family Pavilion possible last year.

The Collins family received a framed acrylic painting of the Collins Family Pavilion created by NSU art student Timothy Stafford.

"The Collins Family Pavilion has been a wonderful addition, from an aesthetic perspective, to the central area of the NSU athletic complex. More importantly, the fact that it is used throughout the year enhances the vitality level on-campus and attracts off-campus visitors to our campus, as well," Burke said. "The NSU Foundation and Alumni Association deserve kudos for working closely with the Collins family to make this facility a reality."



The Collins Family Pavilion provides picnic table-style seating under a covered roof with ceiling fans, and adjacent restrooms and serving areas. It is in the middle of the Demon Alley tailgating area on the old football practice field south of Turpin Stadium.

It was funded by a gift from the Collins family, who recognized that developing a cornerstone facility for NSU tailgating activities would be extremely beneficial for not only Demon football fans, but for the entire university community, Burke said.

Their vision has been borne out by the frequent use of the facility by university groups and organizations for outings throughout the year. Alumni and friends have also rented the facility and it's been put to use for university activities including student organization events and Freshman Connection activities.

For information on renting the Collins Family Pavilion, contact Haley Blount in the NSU Alumni office at (318) 357-4415.



Gayle Hatch, one of five people honored at the annual Louisiana Public Broadcasting Louisiana Legends Gala at the Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge, and his wife Peggy were joined by NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb and his wife, Brenda, at a reception at the Governor's Mansion before the Gala. Gayle and Peggy are both Northwestern graduates and met on campus.

Looking Back



Northwestern State University and the Natchitoches community were stunned when daytime talk show hostess and media mogul Oprah Winfrey paid a visit to alumna Peggy Plunkett (1957, 1992) in October 2002. After Plunkett invited Winfrey to visit Natchitoches during a September 2002 taping of her show, the celebrity jetted into town unannounced and got a taste of Natchitoches's charm and hospitality as the city and university community quickly rallied to make her visit memorable.

A surprised Plunkett and Winfrey drew a crowd as they visited downtown shops and restaurants and were invited to grand marshal Northwestern State's Homecoming parade. Winfrey met with NSU President and Mrs. Randall J. Webb and NSU's Homecoming honor court before she and Plunkett rode through the Historic District where parade-goers cheered and waved signs that read "We Love Oprah." Winfrey spoke at the pep rally on the riverbank and thanked Homecoming Queen Laci Stokes for sharing the festivities with her.

The following week, the national spotlight shone on Natchitoches and Northwestern when footage from Winfrey's visit to Natchitoches and Plunkett's personal story were the focus of Winfrey's show, titled "Everybody Has A Story."

Guess Who



These linemen posed for a photo during a break in the Northwestern State-Florence State football matchup in the fall of 1969. Can you name them? The first five readers to call the Alumni Center at (318) 357-4414 will win a prize.

Answers from the Summer edition of Guess Who, members of the 1981-82 Student Union Governing Board, were, seated from left, George Celles, parliamentarian; Regina Young, treasurer; Alicia Haynes, first vice president; Archie Anderson, president; Angela Guillory, secretary, and Burton McClendon, second vice president. Standing were programs advisors Jim Hurd and Davis Palmour.

Those who guessed correctly were Archie Anderson (1982, 1985) and James Martin (1985).

In Memory

- 1939 – Dr. Kenneth Durr, Aug. 22, 2012, Nacogdoches, Texas
- 1943 – Sadie Grezaffi Thomas, July 21, 2012, Natchitoches
- 1954 – Iva Lois Davis West, Nov. 16, 2011, Leesville
- 1955 – Bill Collinworth, July 21, 2012, Bryceland
- 1970 – Ann Olivia Hartwick, Feb. 25, 2012, Ruston
- 1972 – Charles Mercer "Buddy" Scott Jr., May 17, 2012, Bossier City
- 1961 – Dr. Simon Bewell Combs, Jr., May, 20, 2012, Shreveport
- 1974 – Steve Carlton, June 17, 2012, Sunnyvale, Texas
- 1982 – Marilyn Motter Langston, Oct. 29, 2011, Franklin
- 1986 – Irma Dinkins, June 5, 2012, Tulsa, Okla.
- 1997, 2002 – Stephen Charles "Chuck" Norwood, Aug. 3, 2012, Natchitoches
- 2004 – Clavord "Clay" Sepulvado Hennigan, Aug. 21, 2012, New Orleans
- Joseph Patrick Fitzmorris, July 19, 2012, West Monroe

Alumni Columns

magazine is online with an extended version including the new Lagniappe section where more snippets, alumni spotlights, additional photos and video clips can be found. View the full magazine with the new on-line section at northwesternalumni.com/alumnicolumns

Schedule of Events

Thursday, October 25

All Day **Alumni Art Show**
Hanchey Gallery (on display through Friday)

Friday, October 26

9:00 a.m. **Alumni Association Board Meeting**
Red River Waterway Commission Building

10:30 a.m. **NSU Foundation Board Meeting**
Red River Waterway Commission Building

Noon **Homecoming Golf Tournament**
NSU Recreation Complex

5:30 p.m. **Homecoming Parade & Pep Rally**
The Homecoming parade will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m., departing campus through the main gates of the Northwestern State onto Second Street, turning east on Rue Toulaine and proceeding down Rue Beauport to the Fleur de Lis stage on Natchitoches's downtown riverbank. Numerous student organizations will be riding colorful floats and throwing goodies to parade-goers. The pep rally on the riverbank will feature performances by spirit groups and dancers and an introduction to the Homecoming Court and senior football players.

6:30 p.m. **Long Purple Line Cocktail Hour**
Student Union Lobby

7:00 p.m. **Demon Tennis Reunion Reception**
Health & Human Performance gymnasium

7:30 p.m. **Long Purple Line Dinner & Induction Ceremony**
Student Union Ballroom
The President's Distinguished Service Award winner, the Graduate N Club, Hall of Distinguished Educators inductees and School of Business Hall of Distinction honorees will also be recognized

Visit our new website at
northwesternalumni.com

Saturday, October 27

8:00 a.m. **Homecoming 5K Fun Run/1 Mile Dog Walk**
Collins Pavilion

9:00 a.m. **N Club Hall of Fame Induction**
Magale Recital Hall

10:00 a.m. **NSU Recruiter's Reception and Open House**
-Student Services Center

10:00 a.m. **College of Education & Human Development Reunion - TEC**
(Hall of Distinguished Educators Induction Ceremony)

10:30 a.m. **B.A.A. Brunch & Membership Drive**
Student Union, President's Room 214

11:00 a.m. **School of Business Reception**
Russell Hall, Natchitoches Room
(School of Business Hall of Distinction Induction)

Noon **Demon Regiment Open House**
James A. Noe Military Science Building

1:00 p.m. **Tailgating Activities**
Collins Pavilion/Demon Commons
(Entertainment to be provided by the Glenn Rainey Band)

5:30 p.m. **Pregame Activities**
Turpin Stadium
(Honorees will be recognized)

6:00 p.m. **Northwestern State vs. Nicholls State**
Turpin Stadium "Battle of the NSUs"

7:30 p.m. **Halftime Ceremonies**
Turpin Stadium
(Honorees will be recognized)

